

June 13, 2011 – Board Report

Packet of information tonight to share with you:

PSSA SCORES

First, is a snapshot of our 2011 PSSA scores... These scores could adjust slightly up or down as discrepancies are ironed out, but for the most part we will not see much fluctuation.

- You have three columns on which to focus for each level, high school, middle school and elementary. The middle school and elementary school columns are combined, district-wide scores at those particular levels.
- Let me first remind you that our AYP threshold, or target, increased this year from 56% to 67% in mathematics and 63% to 72% in reading. So, we were a little nervous this year, as were most districts. We knew we had a difficult task ahead of us.
- And, there is good news, bad news, and great news...
- **First, the bad news:** As you can see from the first column, our scores at the high school level are still in need of improvement. We have put many things in place this year and last year that are helping, but we will likely not see the results until the current 9th grade students take the test in 11th grade. These things I refer to were mentioned during a presentation in March as we summarized all school improvement efforts for you. I have included this handout again as a reminder; I will highlight some things specifically:
 - Reading Apprenticeship training
 - A focus on writing across all areas of the curriculum
 - Power curriculum training specific to the math department
 - Standards-Aligned training
 - Work with PDE and Algebra Keystone exams
 - Increasing instructional time in Algebra courses by adding an additional ½ credit of math labs, which can be used for additional support.
 - Working through common assessments
 - Adding a Contemporary Literature course, which I will summarize for you a little later
- All of these items contribute to our performance on the PSSA. We will continue many of these efforts next year, and we will strive towards improvement by monitoring instruction and assessment.
- **The good news:** At the middle school level, our scores have all met or exceeded this year's target, so we are happy about that. And, at the elementary level, our scores have increased. Even though we did not meet the target with 4th and 5th grade reading, we showed growth. I do not think we will have trouble with AYP, but we will need to wait for that information from PDE in the near future.
- **The great news:** The great news is that our efforts to improve writing are showing in our scores, especially at the elementary level. This can be best seen in the charts following, which I will get to in a minute.
- **Questions?**
- The following two pages show you a summary of our PSSA results over the last three years. The first will demonstrate how to track a cohort of students across multiple years. The second will demonstrate progress per grade level across multiple years. For example, if you look at the first page, the 2009 scores begin with grade 3, in 2010 you can see those same students as 4th graders, and in 2011 you can see the same students as 5th graders. I realize there is a lot of information for you to look at at once, so please feel free to ask questions now, or later if you find something you would like to question.

- The next page will show you a summary of a grade level across years. The blue column provides you with 2009 data, the red is 2010 data and the green is this year's 2011 data.
- As you can see, again we have some areas to celebrate and some areas to improve. The back page provides the writing scores I referred to earlier, so you can see that we put forth a lot of effort in writing this year, and our efforts have paid off for us.
- **Questions?**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- A piece of what contributes to our scores is professional development. Last meeting I mentioned that I would provide for you a summary of professional development offerings we did this year. Throughout the year I provided individual charts, which provided you with a schedule for the day. I thought this summary would be a great way for you to see everything across the year.
- What you don't see here is all the work the teachers did outside of the school day with our wiki. I will remind you that this year we read three different books, each focusing on writing, but specific to the teachers' grade level or content area. *Show wiki pile...*
- You are also welcome to look at the 2010-2011 binder, which is full of this year's in-house professional development offerings. *Show binder...*
- What you also will not see is the professional development that occurred outside of our district days and include:
 - Reading Apprenticeship previously mentioned
 - Writers' Workshop Institutes
 - Curriculum work with the IU and other neighboring school districts
 - Power Curriculum training previously mentioned
- Hopefully, all of these items helps you to understand the importance of professional development to our teachers and ultimately, to our students achievement.

I have also provided you with an updated copy of our Summer Institute schedule.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

I also mentioned at our last meeting that I would be providing you with a summary of this year's new Contemporary Literature course.

Totals for you are listed on the hand-out along with emails from the teachers. Mr. Ulmer planned to be here tonight to share with you some first-hand experiences, but he could not make it due to an important family matter.

Each teacher also provided students with an end-of-course survey that included questions such as:

- Has this class changed your attitude or opinion about reading?
- If you could tell others one thing about reading they do not know, what would it be?
- What advice would you give next year's students?
- What changes or additions to the class would you suggest for the future?
- *Some of my favorites...*
- You are welcome to look at other surveys I have here if you would like.

